

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 9341 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USDA,  
DEA, HEW, WHITEHOUSE 29 APR 77

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 9341

HEW PASS NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE  
WHITEHOUSE PASS DR. PETER BOURNE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TH

SUBJECT: USDA CROP SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH EVALUATION TEAM VISIT  
TO THAILAND

SUMMARY

THE RESEARCH EVALUATION TEAM SENT TO PAKISTAN AND THAILAND BY  
THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE/USDA TO REVIEW CROP SUB-  
STITUTION PROJECTS CULMINATED ITS VISIT BY MEETING ON 28 APRIL  
WITH PRIME MINISTER TANIN KRAIVIEN. THE TEAM DEPARTED ON  
29 APRIL FOR WASHINGTON. TWENTY RESEARCH PROJECTS IN THAILAND  
FUNDED BY ARS AND CARRIED OUT BY THAI SCIENTISTS WERE REVIEWED.  
THE TEAM'S DETAILED REPORT WILL BE COMPLETED IN WASHINGTON.  
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THE TEAM REPORTS THAT: 1) PROGRESS IN GENERAL HAS BEEN  
EXCELLENT; 2) SIX TO EIGHT CROPS ARE READY FOR INITIATION  
OF EXTENSION TO FARMERS AND THAT EXTENSION HAS BEEN STARTED  
WITH THREE OF THESE; 3) RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT MORE THAN A  
DOZEN CROPS SINGLY AND IN CROPPING SYSTEMS CAN MORE THAN  
REPLACE INCOME PER FAMILY PER YEAR FROM OPIUM; 4) COFFEE  
HAS GOOD POTENTIAL FOR THE HIGHLANDS BUT SEVERAL SERIOUS

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS ARGUE IN FAVOR OF NOT REPEAT NOT LETTING EXPANSION OF PLANTING OUTSTRIP AVAILABILITY OF SELECTED PLANTING STOCK AND BASIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGY; 5) CONCEPT OF SINGLE CROP REPLACEMENT FOR POPPY UNTENABLE; 6) THAI HAVE REQUISITE SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE FOR RUNNING THEIR OWN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM; THEY NEED HELP WITH FINANCING THE PROGRAM AND IN ACQUISITION OF INITIAL PLANTING STOCKS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT; 7) THAI WITH BACKING OF PM ARE MOVING TOWARD AN ORGANIZED RESEARCH EXTENSION MARKETING SYSTEM THAT SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE. END OF SUMMARY.

1. THE USDA CROPS SUBSTITUTION RESEARCH EVALUATION TEAM (QUENTIN JONES, ECONOMIC BOTANIST AND TEAM LEADER, HOWARD BROOKS, HORTICULTURIST, D.W. FISHLER, AGRONOMIST, CURTIS R. JACKSON, PATHOLOGIST AND ADMINISTRATION OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS, R.D. JACKSON, ENTOMOLOGIST, MARLIN JOHNSON, EXTENSION SPECIALIST, AND TOM COX, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SPECIALIST, STATE, WHO WAS ATTACHED TO THE TEAM ON ITS ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK) ARRIVED BANGKOK ON 17 APRIL AND SPENT NEXT TEN DAYS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THAI PROJECT LEADERS AND FAO, FORD FOUNDATION AND UNPDAC ASSOCIATES AND IN ON-SITE OBSERVATION OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK IN THE HIGHLANDS. THE AMBASSADOR HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE TEAM DURING ITS STAY IN THAILAND. THE TEAM, THE AG. ATT. AND THE AMBASSADOR WERE GUESTS OF PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIVIXIAN AT A LUNCHEON MEETING ON 28 APRIL.

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2. TWENTY RESEARCH PROJECTS DEALING WITH INCOME SUBSTITUTION FOR OPIUM IN THE HIL TRIBES AREA OF NORTHERN THAILAND WERE REVIEWED WITH THE THAI TEAMS INVOLVED AND OBSERVED AT FIELD LOCATIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS. THE TEAM ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF VISITING THE CHIANG MAI FOOD COMPLEX FACTORY, LAMPHUN, AND DISCUSSING CROP RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES WITH MANAGEMENT STAFF OF THE FACTORY.

3. PROGRESS TOWARD RESEARCH OBJECTIVES HAS IN GENERAL BEEN EXCELLENT. SEVERAL OF THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR THREE YEARS, SOME FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR, BUT ALL REFLECT INPUT OF SCIENTIFIC COMPETENCE AND DEDICATION TO THE GOAL OF PROVIDING HILL TRIBE FARMERS WITH VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO OPIUM POPPY.

4. AMONG THE PROJECTS WHICH ARE SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO PERMIT INCREASE OF SELECTED PROPAGATION STOCK AND INITIATION OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES ARE: SEED AND BULB

PRODUCTION OF ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, TEA, STRAWBERRY DAUGHTER PLANTS AND OFF-SEASON FRUIT, PYRETHRUM, COFFEE, PEACHES, BEES (FOR POLLINATION PRIMARILY BUT ALSO HONEY PRODUCTION) AND CHRYSANTHEMUM TEA. INCREASE OF PROPAGATING STOCK AND EXTENSION TO FARMERS HAS ALREADY BEEN STARTED WITH PEACHES, STRAWBERRIES AND COFFEE. ALL OF THE CROPS HERE MENTIONED REQUIRE CONTINUED RESEARCH FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING AND FOR TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS TO LEAD EXTENSION AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.

5. RESEARCH HAS IDENTIFIED MORE THAN A DOZEN CROPS WHICH SINGLY AND/OR IN CROPPING SYSTEMS CAN MORE THAN REPLACE INCOME PER FAMILY PER YEAR FROM OPIUM. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE TEAM'S FINISHED REPORT.

6. COFFEE IS READY TO ENTER AN EXTENSION AND MARKETING PROGRAM. THE EXTENSION EFFORT SHOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY AND TIED TO A CONTINUING RESEARCH EFFORT ON DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS, MINOR ELEMENT NUTRITION, SHADING REQUIREMENTS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF COFFEE LEAF RUST RACES PRESENT IN THE REGION. A TEAM OF THAI COFFEE RESEARCHERS WILL TRAVEL TO COFFEE PRODUCTION AREAS OF LATIN AMERICA TO OBSERVE HOW THESE COUNTRIES HAVE HANDLED PROBLEMS WHICH FACE OR MAY FACE THAILAND.

7. ALL SCIENTISTS WORKING IN THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE THAT THE CONCEPT OF A SINGLE CROP REPLACEMENT FOR OPIUM POPPY IS UNTENABLE EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE MANY CROPS WHICH INDIVIDUALLY COULD YIELD AS MUCH OR MORE CASH INCOME TO THE FARMER AS OPIUM DOES. THE CONCEPT IS UNTENABLE BECAUSE OF THE VARIABILITY OF THE HILL TRIBES AREA IN TERMS OF ALTITUDE (TEMPERATURE), SOILS, WATER AVAILABILITY, SOCIAL ATTITUDES, AND ACCESSIBILITY TO MARKETS. EVEN IF THESE VARIABLES DID NOT EXIST, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO CREATE A CASH CROP MONOCULTURE.

8. THE TEAM IS CONVINCED THAT THE THAI ARE FULLY EQUIPPED IN TERMS OF SCIENTIFIC COMPETENCE AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS TO SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT THEIR OWN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM. THE THAI ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF RECOGNIZING DEFICIENCIES IN PROGRAM INPUTS AND OF SEEKING OUTSIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED. THEY DO NEED HELP IN FINANCING THE PROGRAM AND IN ACQUIRING INITIAL PLANTING STOCKS AS WELL AS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE IN THAILAND.

9. DR. PHISIT VORAURAI, PRINCIPAL RESEARCH LEADER ON

THE ORNAMENTALS PROJECT, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE CROP REPLACEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. DR. PHISIT WITH ASSISTANCE OF RECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS FROM KASETSART UNIVERSITY, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAE JO INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, AND THE PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IS ORGANIZING A RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD EFFECTIVELY INSTITUTIONALIZE THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM.

10. IN THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, HE FORCEFULLY STATED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DISCUSSION THAT THAILAND WOULD SUCCEED WITH ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. HE ALSO CAME DOWN HARD ON THE NEED TO FIND CAPABLE AND HONEST PEOPLE TO GIVE LEADERSHIP IN THE CRITICAL AREA OF MARKETING CROPS FROM THE HILL TRIBES AREA. JONES SUGGESTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE IDEA OF APPOINTING A MARKETING BOARD COMPOSED OF PEOPLE IN THE MARKETING BUSINESS. SUCH A BOARD WOULD ADVISE PRODUCTION SPECIALISTS IN THE HILL TRIBES AREA AND PROVIDE INITIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN SELLER AND BUYER. THE AMBASSADOR SURFACED THE CONCEPT OF A REVOLVING FUND TO BE USED TO BUY SUBSTITUTE CROP PRODUCTS FROM THE FARMER. THE MANAGER FOR SUCH A FUND WOULD SELL THE PRODUCE AND RETURN THE PROCEEDS TO THE FUND. THE FARMER WOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR PAYMENT AND WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO STAY WITH THE NEW PROGRAM. THE PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT WELL OF BOTH IDEAS.

11. THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTED THAT NEXT WEEK HE WOULD BE LAUNCHING A NATION-WIDE REFORESTATION PROGRAM. WE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM TIES IN VERY WELL WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FOREST CONSERVATION DRIVE. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO URGED THAT HE HAVE HIS FORESTERS UTILIZE TRIBAL LABOR IN PLANTING AND CARING FOR TREES SO THAT THE TRIBES WOULD HAVE A VESTED INTEREST AND WOULD BE LESS INCLINED TO SLASH AND BURN. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY WOULD DO THIS.

12. THOUGH BOTH DR. JONES AND THE AMBASSADOR GAVE THE PRIME MINISTER OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HIS THOUGHTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING ABOUT WHICH THAI ORGANIZATIONS COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY

DIRECT THE TRANSITION FROM RESEARCH TO PRODUCTION IN THE  
FARMER'S FIELD, HE DID NOT RESPOND. PRESUMABLY HE  
CONSIDERS THIS A THAI MATTER THAT THE THAI HAVE NOT YET  
RESOLVED.

13. OVERALL THE MEETING WAS PRODUCTIVE AND ENCOURAGING.  
BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE FRUITFUL  
COOPERATION TOWARD A COMMON GOAL.  
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